

Abwoon Leadership – A New Kind of Training (FAQ)

The new Abwoon Leadership program asks for a higher level of self-responsibility than previous leadership programs. Although there will be official recognition of people who have completed the entire program, this is not a program for those who would simply like to obtain another certificate.

At the end of the three+ years, we envision having a very empowered, attuned, well-trained group--- a compassionate, supporting leadership community, all of whom could go into any setting, not just Sufi and Dance ones, and work with this material. The leadership issues related to the variety of contexts where people may lead require an increased depth of concentration.

Neil will focus his primary energy on people who can commit to the entire program. This is so that the core of the group enters at a high level of commitment and experience and so that the group can proceed immediately to leadership/attunement material.

When deciding whether to commit to the entire program or simply "pick and mix" leadership retreats, there are two points to keep in mind: a) the program has a limited enrollment, so there is room for only 40 people; b) the program is aimed specifically towards *leadership* skills / attunement and so presumes that the people coming into it have the prior background that the other previous Abwoon retreats gave. Even though a person has attended other retreats with Saadi/Neil, he has never before conducted retreats on this material specifically aimed toward how to lead it, that is, the body prayers, meditations, walks, dances involved.

Since Abwoon Study Circle is not offering a 'certification' per se, there is actually nothing for people to ask for as recognition for prior work in this material at this point. None of this material has ever been taught at this level, including in Dance trainings, so anyone who misses a module will simply miss what is offered. They may or may not have experienced what is in it elsewhere. The Dance material that has come through Neil as part of this work is substantially more subtle and complex than what is taught in general Dance of Universal Peace leadership courses, and so different leadership skills are necessary. Beyond this, there are leadership issues related to the body prayers, somatic exercises, walks and sitting meditations.

Everyone must complete an application form to be considered for participation in either the entire program or a singular module. Those who commit to the whole leadership program are guaranteed

enrollment in all of the modules. Anyone can take modules as they pick and choose to the degree there is space available. Enrollment is "opened up" 6-8 weeks ahead of the event for those not in the full program and one's enrollment is not guaranteed until that time.

Also the optional processes for those in the full program are not available to those taking specific modules only. As a means to enhance learning and provide further support in personal and professional deepening, spiritual

mentoring sessions and six-month reviews of written submissions are being offered (individual contracting with respective fees involved). Since there is no 'certification' per se, these will not be "requirements" of the program necessary to obtain such. These would be required

in a certification environment and this program seeks to offer a program at a commensurate level. We feel that this will offer the deepest level of inner and outer preparation for leadership. Nothing less is required for the new interspiritual circles so needed today.

Scholarships: Some limited scholarship funds are available for the program; however, we would ask people to carefully consider before committing to the entire program. In addition, the Abwoon Leadership Program has been approved for scholarship funds from the Oneness Foundation for supervised and mentored teachers of the Dances of Universal Peace.

Special Note for Applicants to the European Leadership Training:

The first leadership module will be held at Wiston Lodge in Scotland from July 15-18. Subsequent leadership modules will be scheduled for weekend dates twice a year at Wiston Lodge, beginning in the Spring and Fall of 2008. This means that the European Program (all seven retreats) will be completed by the Fall of 2010.

UK module confirmed dates (all at Wiston Lodge, Scotland):

- April 2-5, 2009: Module 4
- Oct 15-18, 2009: Module 5
- March 25-28, 2010: Module 6
- Oct 14-17, 2010: Module 7